UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

		CIV	VIL ACTION NO.	- T
GEORTO, INC.,	Plaintiff,	04	11730	NG
v.		į		
and as TRUSTEE O	MAN, INDIVIDUAL DF 200 UNION M	LLY)	<u>kandel</u>	2015
STREET REALTY	TRUST Defendant.)))	RECEIPT #AMOUNT \$_\SUMMONS ISSUED_	765
		<u>COMPLAINT</u>	LOCAL RULE 4.1 WAIVER FORM MCF ISSUED BY DPTY, CLK	9.M
		<u>Parties</u>	DATE \$15109_	

- 1. Plaintiff Georto, Inc. ("Georto") is a corporation organized under the laws of Florida with its principal place of business in Miami, Florida. Georto, doing business as Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership for Less!, is in the business of owning and operating stores that sell and lease furniture, electronics, appliances, and computers.
- 2. William Gateman ("Gateman") is an individual who resides at 93 Atlantic Avenue, Swampscott, Essex County, Massachusetts and is trustee of 200 Union Street Realty Trust, u/d/t dated December 18, 1996, with an address of 93 Atlantic Avenue, Swampscott, Essex County, Massachusetts.

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because the amount in controversy exceeds the sum

or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, in that Georto incurred actual damages substantially in excess of \$75,000, and because the controversy is between citizens of different states.

Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the District of 4. Massachusetts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) because defendant resides in the judicial district for the District of Massachusetts and because the property that is the subject of the action is located in such district.

<u>Facts</u>

- Gateman owned the real property situated in Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts 5. consisting of approximately 19,500 square feet located between Ellis Street and Union Street and being that property fronting approximately 83 feet on Union Street and approximately 80 feet on Ellis Street (the "Property").
- Upon information and belief, a fire in August 2001 had substantially damaged the 6. five story brick building on the Property.
- Upon information and belief, the building was torn down sometime between 7. October 2001 and April 2002.
- Georto, by its President James Hawkins, entered into discussions commencing in 8. or about February, 2003 regarding the potential purchase of the Property by Georto.

- 9. In connection with those discussions, Georto informed Gateman that Georto intended to use the Property for the construction of a new commercial building as a retail store for Georto's business.
- 10. In order to induce Georto to purchase the Property, Gateman warranted and/or represented to Georto that all demolition debris had been removed from the Property, that all demolition debris had been properly disposed of, that the property had been filled to grade with fill dirt, and that "there are no hazardous materials as defined by state, federal, or local law, or non-acceptable environmental conditions on the property," as more specifically set forth in paragraphs 11 through 14 below.
- 11. Pursuant to a Contract for the Sale of Real Estate (the "Contract") entered into by Gateman and Georto dated June 18, 2003, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein, Gateman warranted and represented that "there are no hazardous materials as defined by state, federal, or local law, or non-acceptable environmental conditions on the property." Contract at ¶2(f).
- 12. Pursuant to the terms of the Contract, all of Gateman's warranties survived the closing.
- 13. As part of the due diligence regarding the Property, as referenced in Paragraph 8 of the Contract, Gateman, after execution of the Contract and prior to the closing, furnished Georto various environmental surveys of the Property, including a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment written report prepared by Goldman Environmental Consultants, Inc. (the "Assessment") dated May 29, 2002. Gateman caused Goldman Environmental Consultants to issue a reliance letter to Georto acknowledging that Georto was relying upon the information

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contained in the Assessment for completion of due diligence activities and financing and stating that Georto could rely upon such information as if the information had been prepared for Georto. The Assessment set forth the following material representations regarding the Property (also referred to as the "Site"):

- "[r]emoval of demolition debris from the Site ...is currently being (a) conducted at the Site." Assessment at p. 2.
- "The Site is currently undergoing demolition removal and filling (b) activities." Assessment at p. 3.
- "Filling and grading activities are currently being conducted at the Site to (c) fill in the former basement areas and return the Site to a level grade." Assessment at p. 4.
- "Based on conversations with Mr. Gateman, all demolition debris has been (d) or will be hauled off-Site by Robert's Dismantling & Recycling" Assessment at p. 4.
- (c) "Currently the former basement areas are being filled to grade." Assessment at p. 4.
- "Based on conversations with Mr. Gateman....[a]ll demolition debris was (f) hauled off-Site or is in the process of being hauled off-Site for proper disposal. The Site is currently undergoing filling activities to fill in the Site building's former-basement areas." Assessment at p. 10.
- "The former building has been demolished and removed from the Site." (g) Assessment at p. 16.

- (h) "The building formerly located at the Site has been demolished and disposed of off-Site." Assessment at p. 17.
- (i) "Currently the only solid waste located on-Site is demolition debris from the former Site building. Demolition debris is currently segregated by type (i.e. wood, metal) into piles located on-Site." Assessment at p. 20.
- (j) "All demolition debris is in the process of being removed from the Site by Robert's Dismantling & Recycling." Assessment at p. 20.
- (k) "The Site is currently undergoing filling and re-grading. Robert's
 Dismantling & Recycling is currently transporting fill dirt onto the Site to
 fill in the former basement areas to even out the grade of the Site."

 Assessment at p. 20.
- (I) Under the heading of "Solid Waste" in connection with a "summary of known or suspect environmental conditions associated with the property": "Piles of solid waste (demolition debris) were observed throughout the Site. Based on conversations with Mr. Gateman, observed piles are scheduled to be removed and properly disposed off Site by Robert's Dismantling and Recycling." Assessment at p. 24.
- 14. Gateman, by his counsel, provided Gcorto on July 7, 2003 with a copy of a document warranting and representing that Gateman had completed the removal of the demolition debris from the Property.
 - 15. Gateman's warranties and representations were false.
- 16. At all relevant times, including the times that Gateman made the statements referenced in the Assessment as set forth above, entered into the Contract, provided the

- Gateman made such representations and warranties with the intention of inducing 17. Georto to purchase the Property from Gateman.
- In reliance upon Gateman's representations and warranties, Georto submitted a 18. franchise site submittal package (pursuant to which Georto requested and received franchisor approval for the Property location), paid a \$35,000 franchise fee for the rights to operate a franchise at the Property, sought and obtained financing for the purchase and development of the Property, purchased the Property for the purchase price of \$300,000 pursuant to a closing on February 19, 2004, incurred additional employment expenses and opportunity costs, entered into a construction contract for the development of the Property and the construction of a 7,500 s.f. commercial retail building for Georto's business, agreed to purchase specific pre-fabricated materials for the construction and to pay for architectural fees and permitting and other miscellaneous costs, and proceeded with such development and construction.
- Thereafter, Georto, in connection with its development of the Property and 19. subsequent to the commencement of the excavation at the Property for construction of the new building, discovered substantial demolition debris and solid waste concealed below grade on the Property, including but not limited to the following:
 - Demolition debris from the prior building and solid waste, consisting of (a) brick, burnt wood, black ash, mortar, concrete, wood, organics, and other solid waste debris such as plastic, glass, metal, and trash, had been dumped and buried on the Property under varying depths of fill, rather

than removed and properly disposed off site. The additional fill materials contained organics and lesser amounts of debris.

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- The demolition debris and solid waste was up to approximately ten feet in (b) depth, depending upon the location.
- The debris and solid waste included not only debris and waste from the (c) Property but also, upon information and belief, debris and waste that Gateman had caused to be moved from the adjoining property so as to enable Gateman to sell that other property at a greater price than what would have been realized otherwise.
- The basement area had not been filled with fill dirt but instead had been (d) filled with the demolition and solid waste debris and similar nonacceptable fill.
- Upon information and belief, Gateman, after initially segregating the demolition 20. and solid waste debris on the Property for removal and disposal, had deliberately dumped the demolition and solid waste debris on the Property and concealed its existence by covering it with varying depths of fill so that the demolition and solid waste debris would not be discovered by Georto.
- The demolition debris and solid waste materials had been dumped and concealed 21. by Gateman in violation of applicable Solid Waste regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, were non-acceptable environmental conditions, were not suitable for foundation or floor slab support for a building, and were not suitable for re-use as fill. Among other problems, these materials were highly susceptible to significant settlement under

their own weight and under new building load and were susceptible to decomposition and additional settlement created by the voids.

Georto was required to, and did, excavate, remove, and dispose of 167 truckloads 22. (28 cubic yards per truckload) of the demolition and solid waste debris fill material from the Property and to replace with 4,231 cubic yards of acceptable fill in order to construct the building on the Property.

COUNT ONE (Breach of Warranty - Gateman as Trustee)

- Georto repeats and realleges each and every allegation hereinbefore made as 23. though fully set forth herein.
 - Georto fully complied with any and all obligations set forth in the Contract. 24.
- Pursuant to the Contract, Gateman, as Trustee, warranted and represented that 25. "there are no hazardous materials as defined by state, federal, or local law, or non-acceptable environmental conditions on the property," among other warranties and representations.
 - Gateman, as Trustee, breached his warranties. 26.
- Georto has been damaged by Gateman's breaches of warranty, including but not 27. limited to the costs of the removal of the demolition and solid waste debris and the replacement with acceptable fill, additional construction costs, delay in construction, lost profits, additional labor expenses and opportunity costs, lost business opportunities, and related damages.

COUNT TWO (Fraud - Gateman, Individually and as Trustee)

Georto incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the foregoing 28. paragraphs, as if fully repeated herein.

- 29. Gateman, individually and as Trustee, made false statements of material fact to Georto, specifically including the false statements set forth in paragraphs 10, 11, 13, and 14 above.
- 30. Gateman, individually and as Trustee, knew, or should have known, that the statements were false.
- 31. Gateman, individually and as Trustee, made the false statements with the intention that Georto would rely upon such statements.
 - 32. Georto reasonably relied upon Gateman's statements.
- 33. Georto was damaged as a result of Gateman's statements, including but not limited to costs of the removal of the demolition and solid waste debris and the replacement with acceptable fill, additional construction costs, delay in construction, lost profits, additional labor expenses and opportunity costs, lost business opportunities, and related damages.

COUNT THREE (Negligent Misrepresentation – Gateman, Individually and as Trustee)

- 34. Georto incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully repeated herein.
- 35. Gateman, individually and as Trustee, made false statements of material fact to Georto, specifically including the false statements set forth in paragraphs 10, 11, 13, and 14 above.
- 36. Gateman, individually and as Trustee, negligently failed to determine whether the statements were true or false.
- 37. Gateman, individually and as Trustee, made the false statements with the intention that Georto would rely upon such statements.
 - 38. Georto reasonably relied upon Gateman's statements.

Georto was damaged as a result of Gateman's statements, including but not 39. limited to costs of the removal of the demolition and solid waste debris and the replacement with acceptable fill, additional construction costs, delay in construction, lost profits, additional labor expenses and opportunity costs, lost business opportunities, and related damages.

COUNT FOUR (Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing - Gateman as Trustee)

- Gcorto incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the foregoing 40. paragraphs as if fully repeated herein.
 - Georto fully complied with any and all obligations set forth in the Contract. 41.
 - Gateman, as trustee, breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing. 42.
- Georto has been damaged by Gateman's breach of the implied covenant of good 43. faith and fair dealing, including but not limited to the costs of the removal of the demolition and solid waste debris and the replacement with acceptable fill, additional construction costs, delay in construction, lost profits, additional labor expenses and opportunity costs, lost business opportunities, and related damages.

COUNT FIVE (Violation of Mass. Gen. L. ch. 93A § 11 - Gateman, Individually and as Trustee)

- Georto incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the foregoing 44. paragraphs as if fully repeated herein.
- Georto and Gateman, individually and as Trustee, are and were at all relevant 45. times engaged in trade or commerce in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts within the meaning of Mass, Gen. L. ch. 93A.

- Gateman, individually and as Trustee, willfully and knowingly engaged in unfair 46. and deceptive acts and practices in violation of Mass. Gen. L. ch. 93A § 11.
- Georto has suffered and will suffer damage as a result of Gateman's actions, 47. including but not limited to the costs of the removal of the demolition and solid waste debris and the replacement with acceptable fill, additional construction costs, delay in construction, lost profits, additional labor expenses and opportunity costs, lost business opportunities, and related damages.

WHEREFORE, Georto, Inc. respectfully requests that the Court:

- Award Georto damages against Gateman in an amount to be determined at trial; 1.
- Award Georto multiple damages and attorneys' fees against Gateman pursuant to 2. Mass. Gen. L. ch. 93A § 11;
- Award Georto prejudgment interest and costs; and 3.
- Grant Georto such other and further relief as the Court deems just. 4.

GEORTO, INC.

By its attorneys,

Dale C. Kerester BBO # 548385

LYNCH, BREWER, HOFFMAN & FINK,

LLP

101 Federal Street, 22nd Floor

Boston, MA 02110 (617) 951-0800

Dated: August 5, 2004

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1.	Title of ca and a	se (name S Tri	ne of first party on each side only) Georto, Inc. v. William Gateman, Individua custee of 200 Union Street Realty Trust	эттў				
2.	Category	in which	the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See	•				
	local rule 40.1(a)(1)).							
		1.	160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.					
		H.	195, 368, 400, 440, 441-444, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, 740, 790, 791, 820*, 830*, 840*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950. *Also complete AO 120 or AO 121 for patent, trademark or copyright cases					
		m.	110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.	ż				
		IV.	220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650,					
	r		690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.					
	<u></u> j	٧.	150, 152, 153.					
3.			, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in se indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.					
	N/A							
4.	Has a prid	or action	n between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court? YES NO					
5.	Does the 28 USC §		Int In this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See					
			YES NO					
	lf so, ls th	ie U.S.A.	A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party? YES NO					
6.	is this ca	se requir	lred to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284? YES NO					
7.			ies in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the united states and the Commonwealth of "governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule					
			YEŞ 🔀 NO					
		A.	If yes, in which division do <u>all</u> of the non-governmental parties reside?					
			Eastern Division Central Division Western Division					
		В.	If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?					
			Eastern Division Central Division Western Division					
8.			of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If parate sheet identifying the motions)					
(D) = 4	SE TYPE O	ppikity	YES L					
	RNEY'S NAM	ΛE	Dale C. Kerestor					
ADDR	ESS I	- <u></u> ynch	h, Brewer, Hoffman & Fink, 191 Federal Street, Boston, MA 92	110				
	PHONE NO.	1.0	617) 951-0800					

%JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEEINSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

1. (a) PLAINTIFFS Georto, Inc.				DEFENDANTS William Gateman, Individually and as Trustee of 200 Union Street Realty					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Miami, Florida (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				Trust County of Residence of First Listed (IN U.S. PLAINTEF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Dale C. Kerester Lynch, Brewer, Hoffman & Fink, LLP 101 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110 (617) 951-0800				Attorneys (If Known) N/A					
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)		ZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTII	ES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	~		·	Citizen of This State					
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	Diversity (Indicate Citi zenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizer	of Another State 🛚		l and Principal Place 🔰 5 🔲 5 ss in Another State			
		_	L .	or Subject of a 🗆	3 □ 3 Foreign Nati	ion			
IV. NAT URE OF SUIT	No. 1 Tri		FORE	EITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES			
110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of 150 Recovery of Defauled Student Lones (Exel. Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' S mis 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Force losure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Auplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libe L& Slander 340 Marine 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 355 Mator V chicle 355 Mator V chicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommod ations 444 Welfare 440 Other Civil Rights	PERSONAL INJUI 162 Personal Injury Med. Malpractic 365 Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPE 370 Other Frand 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damag Product Liability PRISONER PETIT 510 Motions to Vacase Habeas Corpus: 530 General 530 General 530 Death Ponalty 540 Mandamus & O 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	62 62 62 62 63 64 65 65 65 66 67 66 67 66 67 66 67 67 66 67	8 Agriculture 9 Other Food & Drug 5 Drug Related Scizure of Propesty 21 HSC 0 Liquor Lises 0 R.R. & Truck 0 Artiste Regs. 0 Occupational Safety/Realth 0 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Sandards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt, Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt, Reparting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Empf, Ret. Inc. SecurityAct	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHT 820 Copyrights 810 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 661 HIA (1395M) 862 Black Long (923) 863 DIW C/DIW W (405) 864 SS(D Title XVI	Corrupt Organizations S10 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 2 USC 3410 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Service Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900 Appeal of Fee Determise Polar Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 890 Other Statutory Actions			
V. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) (PLACE AN "X" IN ONLY BOX ON									
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI Diversity act of warranty faith and Cha	on bond the U.S. Clyd Str ion pursuant fraud negli pter 93A ar	ute underwhich you are I internates unless diversite to 28 U gent misr Ising fro	») S.C. eprėse m the	1332(a) s ntation, purchase	etting forth breach of th of real prot	n claims for breach ne covenant of good perty in Lynn, Mass.			
VII. RÉQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	□ CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.CI	S IS A CLASS ACTION P. 23		#AND \$ \$75,000	JURY DEMAI	nly if demanded in complaint: ND: Li Yes No			
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY		JUDG E			DOCKET NUMBER				
SISTATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD									
RECEIPT #	AMOUN	APPLYING IFP_		JUDGE	MAG.	JUDGE			